

Syrian Arab Republic
Ministry of Information

American Espionage
before
Syrian Justice

1 9 6 5

A PREFATORY NOTE

As the Revolution of March 8, 1963, has come to stamp out secession, reaction, and foreign influence, colonialist and Zionist forces have ever since undertaken various activities against our revolutionary regime.

Such furious, untiring activities, which have been aimed at Syria, were unprecedented in the course of any of the previous political stages in the country.

This, however, was not unexpected because colonialist and Zionist forces have for the first time felt that all of its plans directed against Syria have failed at once by the rise of the people's democratic socialist regime. This regime which colonialist-Zionist forces desperately resisted for decades by their unending conspiracies against Syria and its progressive revolutionary forces.

Conscious that their agencies and spy-rings would face a final uprooting operation in Syria, the

colonialist-Zionist forces urged those agencies and rings to intensify their activities in order to collect by all means political, military, and economic information about Syria. Temptations including abundant amounts of money were put forward for this purpose.

The case of Farhan El-Atassi and Abdul-Moien Hakmi is one of the serious espionage cases that was planned and carried out by the colonialist-Zionist forces against the Syrian Arab Army. The aim of the conspiracy was precise and specific information about the Syrian Army's potential power.

It was the U.S. embassy, this time, who undertook the responsibility of carrying out the espionage operations in Syria.

The U.S. embassy used for this purpose :

- a) An American senior official, namely Snowden.
- b) A Syrian Americanised national, namely Farhan Ben Abdulhadi El-Attasi, who was trained in the U.S.A. on espionage activities with the aim of returning to Syria and working against his own country.
- c) An opportunist Army-man, namely Abdul-Moien Ben Abdul-Wahab El-Hakmi (relative of Farhan) who, like all reactionaries and opportunists, had purged the army.

If we review the minutes of the last session

held by the military court on Feb. 19, 1965, under the chairmanship of Colonel Salah El-Din Ad-Dilli, which has the statements given by the accused, we find that the role of the American embassy in planning, directing, financing, and executing this espionage ring is a indubitable fact. It is thus obvious that the U.S.A. has interfered in the internal affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic and encroached upon its sovereignty and security. This only means that the U.S. violated the U.N. charter and the principles of peaceful coexistence.

After calling on the accused Farhan Al-Atassi, the chairman declared the beginning of the hearing.

Chairman : In this last session of the trial do you have any other statements to made ?

Accused : Yes Sir. I would like to go back to the beginning. As I said, during July, the American consul, William Douglas, contacted me, and asked me to meet him in the consulate. There he told me of a report sent against me by the U.S. State Department accusing me of communism and requesting an investigation.

Chairman : There is no need for mentioning such matters. Mention only new things.

Accused : About one month later, I met a person called Walter Snowden. This person was kind to me. He invited me to his home, where he spoke about communism and other matters. As an American citizen, Snowden advocated the idea that we both should be of service to the U.S.A. I agreed. Subsequently, I went to Lattakia, contacted my cousin, Abdul-Moien Hakmi, and asked him about the army's possession of a certain machine-gun, with certain dimensions and bullets. During this conversation I noticed that my cousin was puzzled by these questions. Before leaving I told Abdulmoien that the Americans are prepared to pay you the sum of 2,000 S.P. for obtaining 10 bullets for that machine-gun.

Chairman : How much was the American prepared to pay for each shot ?

Accused : 2,000 S.P. Abdulmoien told me that the task was difficult. I returned to Damascus and informed Snowden of the results. Later on, Abdul-Moien called me and inquired whether we still needed the bullets ? I told him that we did. Abdul-Moien then said when the bullets were

available he would inform me. A week later he contacted me to tell me that they were available.

Chairman . You mean the ammunition ?

Accused : Yes, the ammunition. I informed Snowdon of Abdul-Moien's call and asked for an advance payment. I remember taking 7,000 - 8,000 S.P. to Abdul-Moien.

Chairman : Was Snowdon acquainted with Abdul-Moien ?

Accused : No, but when Snowdon inquired about the person who was going to get the ammunition, I told him that he was a relative of mine.

Chairman : All right, continue.

Accused : Abdul-Moien, with the ammunition in his possession, accompanied me in my private car to Damascus. In Damascus I phoned Snowdon and informed him that the bullets have been fetched. Snowdon then met us in a street near Rouda quarter, in Damascus, where I handed over to Snowdon the bag which contained the ammunition.

Chairman : How many bullets ?

Accused : 11.

Chairman : On the basis of \$1,000 each, to be shared shared 50 - 50, e.i. \$500 for you and \$500 for Abdul-Moien.

Accused : Yes ! When I received the remaining amount from Snowden, he said : We attach great importance to the fuse, for which we shall pay \$ 6000 or more. Snowden also added, tell Abdul - Moien that we attached great importance to the subject of the booklet and information regarding the machine gun. I conveyed all Snowden,s requests to Abdul-Moien when I paid him the money. Two or three weeks later, Abdul-Moien phoned and told me that a maid has been secured for me !

Chairman : He meant that booklet was secured ?

Accused : Yes, and Snowden paid \$ 5,000 for that booklet.

Chairman : What about the monthly salary ?

Accused : Snowden told me that a salary of 1,500 S.P. per month has been secured for Abdul-Moien as a reward for providing numbers of Russian arms so as to assess rates of production at the Russian factories.

Chairman : Would you mention Snowden's instructions ? How were you to approach the secretary in case of fetching the booklets in Snowden's absence ?

Accused : Snowden told me that in case I brought the booklets while he was away, I should phone his office in the embassy and ask for the secretary called **Martha** who would take the booklets and arrange for everything.

Chairman : Did Martha know about the affairs ?

Accused : Certainly, certainly she know about the whole affair.

The foregoing extracts are the exact statements given by the accused Farhan Al-Atassi in regard to the role played by the American consul, William Douglas, the second secretary of the American embassy, Walter Snowden and Martha, a secretary at the American embassy.

With the above-mentioned persons taking part in the espionage ring, it becomes certain that the U.S.A. pursues an aggressive policy and has mal-intensions against Syria and the Arab peoples.

However, the American ring of espionage has failed in achieving its main aims. The army proved its immunity against such attempts, and the failure

Farhan encountered indicated firmly that our army is standing by on alert to defend the country and safeguard its security.

The crime that has been exposed in front of the Military Court was not an individual crime carried out by immoral individuals but a crime that was internationally planned and carried out in compliance with a big power, i.e., the U.S.A., against the safety and security of the Syrian Arab Republic.

This crime was not the first for which the U.S.A. was condemned in front of the Syrian Judiciary. Past records indicate clearly that the U.S.A. has been an accomplice in the colonialist reactionary conspiracies conducted against Syria and the whole Arab world.

As a result of the preparedness and alertness of the Arab people of Syria and its army, all conspiracies have failed and collapsed.

The Syrian security forces have discovered other espionage rings which failed in their evil mission despite dollars, deceit, and promises.

The discovery of such espionage systems has exposed the fierce campaign which colonialism and Zionism lead against Revolutionary Syria.

Nevertheless, the complete failure with which every espionage activity was met indicates the firm

stand of the people and proves their determination to continue their struggle against their enemies until victory is achieved.

The trial and condemnation of both spies Farhan Al-Atassi and Abdul-Moien Hakimi and their immediate sentence to death, expose the U.S.A. as a leader of neo-colonialism as well as an aggressor against other people's safety and security.

This case of espionage proved that the March Revolution in Syria in its firm stand against colonialists and their interests gains more strength and resistance against all aggressive plans which colonialism conducts.

The March Revolution shall remain always capable of unveiling all the agents, spies and traitors, giving them their due severe punishment.

The Death-Sentence for the Accused in Spying for Colonialism and Zionism

The exceptional Military Court convened on 20th of Shawal 1384 H. corresponding to 20th Feb. 1965 with Colonel Salah El-Din Al-Dilli as chairman. The court during this session heard the last statements of the accused, declared the trial closed, and issued the following decision :

In the Name of the Arab People of Syria

The exceptional Military court composed of :

Colonel Salah El-Din Al-Dilli	— Chairman
Major Rabah El-Tawil	— Member
Major Salim Hatoum	— Member
Captain Khalil Arsalan	— Member
Captain Mahmoud Hamra	— Member
Marwan Sabagh	— a civilian clerk assistant

In pursuance of the letter No. 101 dated 15.2.65 from the chief of the intelligence service and the memorandum No. 28 dated 12.1.1965 committing for trial :

- 1 — Colonel Abdul-Moien Hakmi
- 2 — Farhan Ben Abdelhadi El-Atassi - a civilian

Charged with the crime of disclosing military information and spying stated in article 271 - 272 of the code of penalties.

With the trial conducted in the presence of the accused and all investigations made, the following factors transpired :

Evolutionary Factors

No doubt, that international Zionism and Israel are aware of the awakening of the new Arab generation. The responsible feeling acquired by our new generation has resulted from experience and the difficulties that tested and promoted its ability to grasp and understand all danger that surround the Arab world. Every Arab individual is aware of the fact that Israel represents the corner-stone for colonialism in all its forms. It is therefore obvious that Israel, as our enemy, has now adopted a policy of altering many of its aggressive plans and schemes. This change of policy is introduced by Israel in the light of the new Arab realities, the Arab revolution avant-guard in the Arab world.

The enemy, being certain of the impossibility of finding agents in this country, resorted to the achievement of some of its purposes and aims through countries that are opposed to Arab nationalism and its just causes. Those countries are the

same which paved the way for Zionism to usurp Palestine and uproot its Arab people.

This case of espionage is only one in a series of attempts made by the United States of America with a view to weakening the Syrian army by uncovering its military secrets and potential power.

The U.S.A. aims either at acquainting our enemy with our forces or at giving it a cause for demanding more arms and weapons, under the U.S. claim of the balance of powers.

The U.S. adopts a balance of power policy with regard to the Palestine question, so as to support Israel and press the Arab states to solve the Palestinian problem in a way suitable to the interests of Zionism and imperialism.

However, as it happens in any part of the world, insincere people let money lure them away from their duties to their motherland.

Thus, they betray their own people, prove themselves traitors, and by all means disgrace the honour of their country.

Factors of this case began to develop in 1951 when Farhan Atassi, the accused, went to the U.S.A. for continuation of his studies there. It appeared, however, later that he was not undertaking any studies since he embarked on other subjects.

With Farhan's personality crystalising in the U.S.A. as a character who is not attached to his own country and Arabism, except by weak and unreliable strings, American agents helped him in obtaining American citizenship.

Granting Farhan an American citizenship was a coup-degrace for all his links with the Arabs and Arabism.

After a stay of a few years in the U.S.A. Farhan returned in 1959 to Syria as a foreigner, in a country to which he belonged but which he betrayed.

Farhan settled in Damascus under the pretence of doing business in order to earn his living through commercial activities, as if the U.S.A. was suffering from business shortage.

Facts developed later emphasizing that Farhan had only returned to Syria so to continue the mischief he started in the U.S.A. by putting himself under the disposal of suspected elements in the U.S.A. embassy in Damascus.

Farhan, thus guided by directions issued by those sources, embarked on collection of military secrets and information through many persons, most of whom were ignorant of Farhan's real objectives or of the fact that he has relinquished his Arab nationality.

In view of the serious tasks that were entrusted to him, he is not considered as a simple spy but just attached to the American embassy. The seriousness of his duties is represented by his search for military secrets and espionage activities directed at the security and safety of the Syrian Arab Army.

If we add to the foregoing facts the caution with which the American Central Intelligence Agency «C.I.A.» treated this case, we conclude that Farhan is a well-trained spy with a sincerity to colonialism.

Evidence that came up during both the investigations and trial proved conclusively that the U.S.A. embassy relied to a great extent upon the accused in the matter of espionage activities, including the collection of information.

The duration of Farhan's stay in Syria was full of criminal activities, with most of the American spying tasks entrusted to him. In 1963 he was instructed by Mr. Snowden, official at the U.S.A. embassy in Damascus, to obtain some of the ammunition used by the Syrian anti-aircraft guns. At the same time he was requested to procure the booklets and special information regarding the anti-aircraft weapons and if possible to obtain a fuse of the same.

It is therefore obvious that provision of such information renders a first-class benefit to Israel, the ally of colonialism and its puppet.

In adherence of the aforementioned, Farhan contacted the accused, Abdul-Moien, as if he was convinced that the latter would be very cooperative with him in view of his known weakness in being lured by money besides his low national feelings and ill moral.

Thus Farhan, with insufficient reserve, approached Abdul-Moien telling him of the American government's desire to obtain such ammunition and information with \$ 1,000 to be paid for every shot obtained. The required number of bullets of various kinds was fixed as at 10 bullets.

Abdul-Moien subsequently received from Farhan an advance amount of 10,000 Syrian pounds with a promise to Farhan that the required number of bullets shall be secured.

Later on Abdul-Moien asked Farhan to come to Lattakia, where the former handed over to the latter 11 shots and some of the booklets that deal with the Syrian anti-aircraft weapons.

In the course of time Mr. Snowon directed Farhan to collect certain serial numbers of the heavy weapons and armour, telling him at the same time that a monthly salary of 1500 S.P. has been fixed for the accused agent Abdul-Moien in reward for his

spying activities, beside the additional sums of money he gets from carrying out certain other tasks.

Farhan conveyed this news to Abdul-Moien and received from him some of the required military serial-numbers as stated above. Through Farhan, the accused agent Abdul-Moien began receiving his regular monthly salary from the American embassy in Damascus.

In the meantime, the accused agent Farhan was recalled to the U.S.A. to attend a training course on espionage methods that dealt with letter transmission, film concealment and exchange of codes between agents. Before leaving to the U.S.A. Mr. Snowden instructed Farhan to meet while in the U.S.A. a member of the C.I.A. called Harry Kent.

Farhan accordingly was interviewed in the U.S.A. by Harry Kent and two other persons namely Ed and Steve who provided Farhan with advice and directions, together with showing him training-film related to careful espionage activities that might be required of a spy.

Farhan subsequently returned to Damascus where he got in touch with his friend Snowden who asked him about the extent of success he had achieved with regard to the mission for which he had gone to the U.S.A.

In November 1963 Mr. Snowden summoned Farhan to the American embassy where the former informed the latter that the Syrian navy is in possession of a new weapon of great value, adding that the United States government is earnestly seeking detailed information concerning this weapon. Mr. Snowden also stated that Farhan, in view of his close relations with the U.S. government, should carry out this task and was promised payment of \$50,000 in reward for obtaining secrets of the foregoing weapon and bringing these secrets to the U.S. embassy in Damascus.

Farhan, of course, agreed to Snowden's demand and embarked on carrying it out through Colonel Abdul-Moien. Farhan paid to Abdul-Moien 6000 S. P. out of the 10,000 S.P. paid by Snowden on the assumption that rest of agreed sum would be paid on completion of the task.

As Snowden belonged to the Diplomatic Service with a liability of leaving Damascus on Diplomatic duties, he told Farhan that in case of his absence he should contact Miss Martha, an employee of the embassy who knows everything and can manage the business while he is away.

As Abdul-Moien was not a member of the naval force, he used his military rank for obtaining the required information from a naval officer stationed

at the Lattakia base. Thus Abdul - Moien started strengthening his friendship with this naval officer bearing in mind the vicious, immoral aim he is after.

In the sequel of lengthy talks about politics and military secrets with a feeling on the part of Abdul-Moien that his friendship with this naval officer has become so close, he asked him about the new weapon with inquiries about the technical aspects and mobility of this weapon.

Abdul-Moien, using his army rank, showed great desire to know about this weapon, claiming that such weapons should be demonstrated to infantry officers so as to build up their morale and enlarge their military education. At the same time Abdul-Moien proposed to the naval officer to give to some officers a lecture concerning this new weapon. Abdul-Moien's objective was to get more of the required secrets.

Moreover, in a telephone message the accused agent Abdul-Moien stated to his friend the naval officer that his battalion's training programme of action includes the delivery of a lecture on the ways and means for the repel of a certain enemy's shore landing by a counter-attack to be jointly conducted by the Syrian naval and land forces. Abdul-Moien also added that it would be preferable if such a lecture could be delivered by a specialist officer. The

naval officer informed Abdul-Moien that his request of the lecture was approved and that he himself will deliver such a lecture.

During the naval officer's delivery of the lecture, the accused agent Abdul-Moien in a series of questions to the lecturer concentrated on the potential power of the new weapon and proposed a visit to the naval units so as to have an idea on the spot about those weapons. During that visit Abdul-Moien concentrated his questions as before on the secrets and capacities of the new weapon.

Being a good, alert soldier in the Syrian Arab Army, the naval officer, whom the accused agent Abdul-Moien tried to exploit, became very suspicious of Abdul-Moien's behaviour in spite of the latter's high rank in the army.

Scarcely a short time had elapsed, when Abdul-Moien's idea crystallised into a definite and terrific plan.

Abdul-Moien in a telephone call to the naval officer asked the latter to meet him personally to discuss an important question. Subsequently on 10th July 1964 both met in the officer's club where Abdul-Moien started tempting the naval officer by the prospect of getting rich quickly. The naval officer showing himself lured by the temptation, Abdul-Moien seemed assured of his leniency and willingness.

Thus Abdul-Moien informed the naval officer that a certain person has demanded from him information that concerned a weapon possessed by the Syrian navy and that a sum of 80,000 S.P. to 100,000 S.P. shall be paid in reward for the required informations.

This request by Abdul-Moien came as a severe shock to the naval officer who, in a state of nervousness, told the accused agent Abdul-Moien that performance of such action is a betrayal of the country to the enemy. Nevertheless, the naval officer, wanting to discover the other agents, asked Abdul-Moien to give him some time to consider the case, with a pretence that he would accept the undertaking of such a task, provided both would meet again for the same purpose.

The competent authorities then instructed the naval officer to follow up the case until this espionage ring is discovered.

Acting upon directions from the authorities, the naval officer contacted Abdul-Moien and gave him some information related to the weapon. In the meantime the accused agent, Farhan, came to Lattakia and interviewed Abdul-Moien. The latter told Farhan that the task has been accomplished; thus, Farhan gave to Abdul-Moien 60,000 S.P. and instructed him to pay 10,000 S.P. of the amount to the naval officer,

as a down-payment. He also told him that the American embassy still wanted more secrets.

When Farhan left Lattakia for Damascus Abdul-Moien met the naval officer and delivered to him 1,000 S.P., promising him more money on making the latest required information available.

Consequently, both Farhan and the naval officer agreed to take the required weapon-booklets to Damascus. Abdul-Moien followed him there. Farhan in Damascus declined receipt of the booklets claiming that Snowden, the American, was on leave abroad.

Consequently, Abdul-Moien had a meeting with the naval officer and insisted on having those booklets and information. The naval officer, under Abdul-Moien's persistent demand, handed the booklets and information over to him.

Abdul-Moien, with the booklets now in his possession, returned to Damascus where he met Farhan, who in turn conveyed the required information to the American spy. As a reward for this, Farhan received, as he said, 160,000 S.P. Out of this sum he paid 9,500 S.P. to Abdul-Moien who returned after that to Lattakia.

In Lattakia Abdul-Moien met the naval officer and gave him 600 S.P. only pretending that the

middleman refused the information and that these 600 S.P. were just a donation from his own pocket.

In the course of all these events the security authorities were closely watching the activities of the accused persons. On their arrest, both of them confessed all the foregoing facts and statements.

Indicative Evidence

The above stated facts have been confirmed by the following :

- 1 — Self hand-written reports by the accused agents kept in the file.
- 2 — Implicit confessions of the accused agents on immediate investigations.
- 3 — Implicit confessions of the accused agents during the trial as they confirmed their confessions to immediate investigations.
- 4 — Tape-recorded talks between the accused agent Abdul-Moien and the naval officer.
- 5 — Confiscated amounts of money found in possession of Abdul-Moien.
- 6 — Witness given by Major Nazih Esweid and first Lieutenant Mouti'a Rajub on immediate investigation.
- 7 — Witness given by Major Nazih Esweid and first Lieutenant Mouti'a Rajub in front of this court. Some confirmed confessions to immediate investigation.

Preamble of Judgement

Whereas the information and secrets that both of the accused agents Abdul-Moien El-Hakimi and Farhan El-Atassi acquired and delivered to an embassy of foreign state concern the safety and security of the armed forces, such information should remain confidential to safeguard the security of the state.

Whereas the enemy benefits in the first degree from this information given to the foreign embassy, activities of the accused form the crime of spying prescribed in Article 273 - 274 of the General code of penalties.

Whereas available evidence indicate that Farhan, the accused agent, obtained the military secrets and informations by misleading the other agent Abdul-Moien and luring him by money and other interests.

As the proof that Abdul-Moien, the accused agent, has entered a military site for the purpose of obtaining information that benefit the enemy and his acquiring of it commits him to punishment as a military, according to Article 158 of the military code of penalties.

Whereas the accused agent Farhan provoked and tempted the accused Abdul-Moien, he is thus committed to punishment according to Article 158 of the military code of penalties pursuant to Articles 216 - 217 of the general code of penalties.

Whereas the available evidence has gained enough ground of conviction upon which judgement could be based.

Therefore

Pursuant to Articles (175 and 309) of the penalties organic law, Articles (273 and 274) of the general code of penalties, Article 158 of the Military code of penalties and legislative Decree No. 6 of the year 1965 amended by Legislative Decree No. 33 of the year 1965.

The exceptional Military court does unanimously

DECIDE

1. Proven guilty of the espionage crime prescribed in Article 158 of the Military code of penalties, the accused Colonel Abdul-Moien Ben Abdul-Wahab Hakimi, 43 years old, of Homs, a Syrian citizen, married, with 4 children, and detained in Mezzah jail, is sentenced to death.
2. Proven guilty of the crime of tempting a military officer to commit espionage prescribed in Article 158 of the Military code of penalties in pursuance of Articles 216 - 217 of the General code of penalties, Farhan Ben Abdel-Hadi El-Attassi 37 years old of Homs, resident in Damascus — Abu Rumana - Shakib Arsalan Street representative of United Artists Company, married with two children, Syrian citizen and detained in Mezzah jail, is sentenced to death.
3. Confiscation of cash monies seized in possession of both with channelling of them to treasury of the state together with the confiscation of the Peugeot Moor Car No. 69234 of the condemned Abdul-Moien Hakimi since he bought it by monies he received from the American embassy.

A final decision announced in presence through ordinary means subject to approval by the president of the Revolutionary council.

Damascus 20th Shawal 1384
corresponding to 20th Feb. 1965

Chairman

Colonel Salah
El-Din Al-Dilli

Member

Major Mohamed
Rabab El-Tawil

Member

Major
Salim Hatum

Member

Major
Khaeld Arsalan

Member

Major
Mahmoud Hamra